

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of making a fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer polyolefin (TPO) composition and forming a fabricated article therefrom comprising the steps of:

- (1) introducing into an extruder a thermoplastic polyolefin polymer,
- (2) introducing into the extruder a masterbatch comprising an polyolefin elastomer,

- (3) plasticating the thermoplastic polyolefin polymer and the masterbatch in the extruder forming a molten thermoplastic polymer polyolefin composition,

- (4) introducing a continuous reinforcing fiber material into the molten thermoplastic polymer polyolefin composition,

- (5) extruding the molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer polyolefin composition through a die forming a continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polyolefin composition having a desired cross-sectional shape,

- (6) conveying the continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polyolefin composition to a cutter,

- (7) cutting the continuous extrusion into a plurality of preforms and

- (8) conveying the preforms away from said cutter into a compression mold, a vacuum forming mold or a thermoforming mold,

and

- (6)(9) forming a fabricated article comprising the fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer polyolefin composition.

2. (deleted) The method as taught in Claim 1 further comprising, between the steps of (5) and (6), the steps of:

- (i) extruding the molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition through a die forming a continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition having a desired cross-sectional shape,

- (ii) conveying the continuous extrusion of heated fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition to a cutter,

- (iii) cutting the continuous extrusion into a plurality of preforms and

~~(iv) —conveying the preforms away from said cutter into a compression mold, a vacuum forming mold or a thermoforming mold.~~

3. (currently amended) The method as taught in Claim 2 1 wherein the mold in step (iv) is a compression mold.

4. (withdrawn)

5. (withdrawn)

6. (deleted) The method as taught in Claim 1 further comprising, between the steps of (5) and (6), the step of:

~~(xii) —extruding the molten fiber reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition through an extrusion profile die having a desired shape.~~

7. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the extruder is a single screw extruder or a twin screw extruder.

8. (deleted) ~~The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a polyolefin elastomer.~~

9. (currently amended) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer or a linear ethylene polymer comprising ethylene and a C₃ to C₂₀ alpha olefin.

10. (currently amended) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer or a linear ethylene polymer comprising ethylene and an alpha olefin selected from the group consisting of propylene, butene, hexene or 1-octene.

11. (currently amended) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the elastomer is a substantially linear polyethylene polymer comprising ethylene and 1-octene.

12. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the masterbatch further comprises talc, clay, wollastonite, mica, calcium carbonate, a thermal stabilizer, an ultra violet (UV) light stabilizer, a coupling agent, colorants, an antioxidant, an antistat, a clarifier, a nucleating agent, a flame retardant, or mixtures thereof.

13. (previously presented) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the reinforcing fiber material is continuous glass fibers, carbon graphite fibers, polyester fibers, KEVLAR polyaramid fibers, hemp fibers, metal fibers or metal coated fibers.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the reinforcing fiber material is a plurality of continuous glass fibers.

16. (original) The method as taught I Claim 1 wherein the fabricated article is a vehicle bed liner; a vehicle instrument panel, a vehicle cowl, a vehicle fender, a vehicle panel, a vehicle body cover, a vehicle underbody, an electrical equipment device housing, a crate, lawn and garden furniture, a floor covering or a wall covering, wherein the vehicle is a car, a truck, a snow mobile, a personal water craft, an all terrain vehicle, a lawn and garden tractor, farm equipment or a golf cart.

17. (original) The method as taught in Claim 1 wherein the fabricated article is a golf cart underbody.